

Church of Christ

... Heart to Heart ...

The devil is a powerful tempter. He will use anything or anyone at his disposal to deceive people, to get them to sin.

“And the devil said to Him, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” (Luke 4:3-4)

Jesus responded to the devil’s temptation by quoting Deut. 8:3. Why did Jesus use God’s word as His defense? In order to better understand, we need to go back and visit the context of Deut. 8 from which He quoted. I won’t write it out, but you read it and follow with me.

God warns the people to listen to His commandments so they will live (Deut. 8:1). God tested them, humbled them by allowing them to become hungry and then feeding them with manna (Deut. 8:2-3). God was testing their hearts to see if they would really trust in Him, love Him with all their being. If they would, He would provide for them all their needs (Deut. 8:4-6). And the words thundered, “...*that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.*” (Deut. 8:3) Jesus draws from this teaching and was practicing that trust in God. He was responding to God’s word by placing everything in His life into the hands of His Father. Jesus became hungry, just like those in the wilderness, but when tempted, Jesus stood strong in His trust of God and His word.

What about us? How do we respond to God and His word? Do we trust? Do we believe that God will provide, no matter what we face? Jesus said, “For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?” (Matt. 6:25) How often do we worry about these kinds of things? What does God know? The real question is what are we seeking: God and His righteousness or physical things that He created?

Just like Israel wandering in the wilderness, God knew exactly what they needed, and He provided. He tested them. What about us? Do we really believe man will live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God? Do we understand what makes us live? We show what we believe and how much we love by our response in what we seek in our lives. That’s a good test! Think about it!!!

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